



VIRGINIA ZOOLOGICAL PARK

FIELD TRIP PACKET

3500 Granby St,
Norfolk, VA 23504
virginiazoo.org



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Scan the QR code below to book your field trip today.



Please contact the Program Reservations Specialist with specific questions.

 vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov
 (757) 441-2374 x 229

SELF-GUIDED FIELD TRIPS

Explore the Virginia Zoo at your own pace! Schedule a self-guided field trip to receive discounted group admission to the Zoo.

Cost: \$12/student. See exceptions below.

TITLE 1 SCHOOLS

The Virginia Zoo provides discounted tickets for all Title 1 schools.

Cost: \$7/student.

SPECIAL EDUCATION + ADA

The Virginia Zoo provides FREE admission to all individuals with an ADA-recognized disability and one adult companion.

LARGE GROUP PROGRAMS

Bring the whole grade or whole school together for an auditorium-style program where they will meet and learn about 3 animal ambassadors!

WORLD TRAVELER

(GRADES PRE K - 2)

VA Science SOLs: K.7a; 1.5a,b; 2.5b

NC Essential Science Standards: K.L.1.2, 1.L.1.1, 1.L.1.2, 1.L.2.2

ZOO EDVENTURE

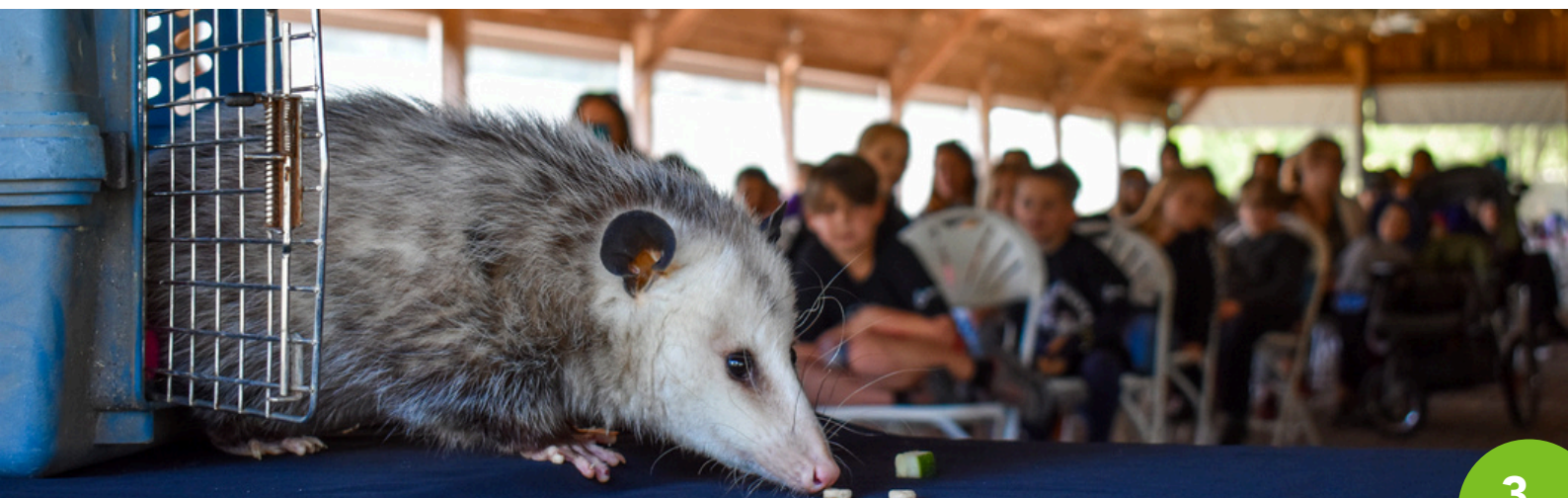
(GRADES 3-12)

VA Science SOLs: K.7a; 1.5a,b; 2.5b; 3.4a,b; 4.2b; 4.3c; LS.6d; LS.7b; BIO.7c

NC Essential Science Standards: K.L.1.2, 1.L.1.1, 1.L.1.2, 1.L.2.2, 4.L.1.2, 4.L.1.4, 5.L.2, 8.L.3, Bio.2.1.2

NOTE

- These programs can be offered both at the Zoo and at your school. General Zoo admission is included for all participants in programs at the Zoo.
- Programs are 30 minutes long, and onsite programs are offered at the following times: 10 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 12:15 p.m.
- Group size at the Zoo: up to 200 individuals from spring-fall and 95 individuals in the winter.
- Group size at your school: unlimited.
- Cost at the Zoo: \$350 minimum plus \$12/student over 29 students. (Title 1: \$7/student over 50 students)
- Cost at your school: \$400 flat rate. A travel fee may apply.
- Offsite programs receive 50% discount off consecutive large group programs. Discount will applied to lowest priced program.



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Close Encounters provide a more in-depth, up-close learning experience, meant for a single class. Each program will include 2 animal ambassadors. These programs can be offered both at the Zoo and at your school, and we offer several themes per age group listed below.

Group size: Up to 30 participants + 3 chaperones

Cost: \$350*

**A travel fee may apply if hosting at your school*

ANIMALS ON THE MOVE

(AGES 3-5)

Students will be able to observe how different animals move and try out those movements themselves!

VA ELDS: HPD2.1

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

(GRADES 3-5)

Students will learn how energy flows within a food chain and the differences between omnivores, herbivores, and carnivores.

VA Science SOLs: 3.5b; 4.3a,b

NC Essential Science Standards: 5.L.2.2

COLORFUL ANIMAL KINGDOM

(AGES 3-5)

Students will learn how animals use their colors to survive.

VA ELDS: CD3.4

SECRETS OF SURVIVAL

(GRADES 3-5)

Students will explore the physical and behavioral adaptations in animals that help them succeed out in nature.

VA Science SOLs: 3.4a,b

NC Essential Science Standards: 4.L.1.2, 4.L.1.4

ONE, TWO, WHO'S AT THE ZOO?

(AGES 3-5)

Students will practice their counting skills with different animals.

VA ELDS: CD3.1

AM I IN THE RIGHT CLASS?

(GRADES 6-12)

Students will get a crash course on Linnean classification, learning every part of an animal's scientific name.

VA Science SOLs: LS.3c; BIO.6a,f

NC Essential Science Standards: Bio.3.5

LIFE CYCLES

(GRADES K-2)

Students will learn about the different life cycles found within the animal kingdom.

VA Science SOLs: K.7; 1.5; 2.4a

NC Essential Science Standards: 2.L.1.1, 2.L.1.2

ANIMAL CARE

(GRADES 6-12)

Students will learn how we use science to provide the best possible care for our animals.

Concepts Covered: Animal Behavior; Zoo Careers; Nutrition

SENSES

(GRADES K-2)

Students will learn how animals use senses to interact with their environment.

VA Science SOLs: K.5a,b, 1.5b

COMMUNITY (CITIZEN) SCIENCE

(GRADES 6-12)

Students will learn how everyday people can get involved to help scientists further our understanding of nature.

VA Science SOLs: LS.8, LS.9, ENV.12

NC Essential Science Standards: Bio.2.2

WILD ABOUT WEATHER

(GRADES K-2)

Students will learn how weather and seasonal changes impact habitats and the things that live there.

VA Science SOLs: K.9a,b; 1.7; 2.7a

NC Essential Science Standards: K.E.1, 2.E.1

GENETICS AT THE ZOO

(GRADES 6-12)

Students will learn basic genetic principles related to domestication and the special challenges of maintaining genetic diversity within zoos.

VA Science SOLs: LS.10c; LS.11a; BIO.5a,c

NC Essential Science Standards: 7.L.2, Bio.3.2

ZOO LABS

Zoo Labs provide a hands-on STEM learning experience meant for a single class.

NATURE DETECTIVES

(GRADES 3-12)

Students will explore what it takes to be a wildlife biologist as they study animal tracks, scat replicas and more!

VA Science SOLs: 3.1, 3.4a,b; 4.1; 4.3b,d; LS.1; LS.3c; LS.6a,d; LS.7b; BIO.1; BIO.6a; BIO.7cf
NC Essential Standards (Science): 5.L.2, 8.L.3, Bio.2.1.2, Bio.2.1.3

SKULL LAB

(GRADES 3-12)

Students will investigate the relationship between physical and behavioral adaptations as they document the traits of mammal skulls.

VA Science SOLs: 3.1, 3.4a,b; 4.1; 4.3b,d; LS.1; LS.3c; LS.6a,d; LS.7b; BIO.1; BIO.6a; BIO.7cf

NC Essential Science Standards: 5.L.2, 8.L.3, Bio.2.1.2, Bio.2.1.3

NOTE

- These programs can be offered both at the Zoo and at your school.
- This program does not include an animal encounter.
- Group size: Up to 30 participants + 3 chaperones
- Cost at the Zoo: \$180 minimum plus \$12/student over 15 students.
- Cost at your school: \$180 flat rate. A travel fee may apply.

TRAVEL FEES

Travel fees may apply when you choose to host a Zoo program at your school. Fees are calculated by your campus's distance from the Zoo in miles. Travel is free for any program sites in Norfolk.

- Up to 15 miles: \$25
- 16-30 miles: \$30
- 31-45 miles: \$35
- 46-60 miles: \$45



Scan to learn more about guided Zoo tours and virtual programming options.



FIELD TRIP ADD-ONS

LUNCH AT THE ZOO

The Virginia Zoo offers boxed lunches for \$10 each or meal vouchers for \$15 each, making lunch time easy and convenient.

Lunch requests can be added on to a field trip up to 10 days before your visit, based on availability. Please note that all groups must make advanced reservations to each lunch at the Zoo, whether purchasing lunch here or bringing in outside food. The designated picnic spot is outdoors with no covered shelter.

ZOO TRAIN

Climb aboard the Virginia Zoo Express for a fun and informative journey around the Zoo!

Train rides are \$3 per individual over 2 years old. Because the train may close during inclement weather, train rides cannot be bought in advance and must be purchased upon boarding at the train station. Contact the Train and Gift Shop Manager at (757) 441-2374 ext. 260 with any train questions.

CLASS ZOOPTIONS

Symbolically adopt your class's favorite Zoo resident to support their care and conservation!

Every animal and garden at the Virginia Zoo is available for adoption at several donation levels.

Scan the QR code below to learn more about zoodoptions.



FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES

EMAIL SIGNED FORMS TO THE PROGRAM RESERVATION SPECIALIST AT VAZOO.RESERVATIONS@NORFOLK.GOV

ALL TEACHERS MUST READ AND SIGN THIS FORM PRIOR TO YOUR RESERVED FIELD TRIP DATE.

- We acknowledge that we are responsible to inform any additional staff/adults attending about the Field Trip Guidelines and Zoo Policies.
- We acknowledge that the Zoo opens at 9:30 am and closes at 4:00 pm. And will arrive at our scheduled time.
- We acknowledge that we need to arrive at least 15 minutes before our scheduled educational program.
- We acknowledge that we will wait on the bus until a Virginia Zoo staff member tells us to disembark the bus.
- We acknowledge that school check-in will be held at the front of the Zoo entrance gate near the giraffe statue.
- We acknowledge that full payment is due once we arrive, and tickets are non-refundable. All sales are final. Should an attendee be unable to attend the field trip, the purchase will be considered a donation.
- We acknowledge that the Conservation and Technology Fee is not a tax and is not exemptible.
- We acknowledge that the field trip rate is only available through our reservation order and additional tickets cannot be purchased through Daily General Admission.
- We acknowledge that all students under the age of 16 are required to always have an adult with them.
- We acknowledge that only the preapproved number of participants and chaperones will be able to enter the educational program. Pre-approved individuals will receive a wristband as their ticket into the program from our Group Lead.
- We acknowledge that we are responsible for informing our chaperones of our field trip itinerary. And provide a list of paid chaperones names to the Program Reservations Specialist.
- We acknowledge that if our reservation must be rescheduled/canceled for any reason, the Program Reservations Specialist must be contacted at least 3 weeks prior to the originally scheduled reservation. Reschedule requests are subject to the availability of the new date requested.
- We acknowledge that a lunch reservation is required to eat inside the Zoo, with a 10-day notice before the visit, based on availability. We will give the Zoo a 72-hour notice if we wish to cancel or update our lunch order.
- We acknowledge that the Zoo is open rain or shine.
- We acknowledge the Zoo Policies: As a guest, we agree to comply with the Virginia Zoo's code of conduct and safety rules and heed all warnings. Please see the code of conduct at www.virginiazoo.org/conduct/

We have read and agree to the above guidelines.

SIGNATURE:

SCHOOL NAME:

DATE OF FIELD TRIP(S):

CHAPERONES

Chaperones must pay through the school to receive the field trip discounted ticket price. Schools that booked an education program will receive wristbands for all the adults that paid through the school. Any adult without a wristband will not be able to enter the program space. Please make sure chaperones are aware of your arrival time and the school's name.

Please provide a list of all paid chaperones that will be attending your school/group field trip. The list can be emailed to the Program Reservations Specialist at vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov

BUS INFORMATION

To ensure everyone's safety upon arrival, if arriving by bus, please follow the below instructions unless otherwise instructed by a Zoo staff member:



- The parking lot speed limit is 8 mph.
- Drive the outside perimeter of the parking lot as marked on the map to get to the Giraffe Statue. Do NOT cut through the parking lot.
- **A bus loading zone is marked on the map. Do NOT unload, load, park or stand at any yellow curbing.**
- Do NOT block any gates.
- Once unloaded please wait until there are no children beside your bus before pulling away from the curb.
- Watch for pedestrians.
- When sitting for more than 10 minutes, please turn off your engine.
- Bus parking is in the back of the parking lot. Please exit the parking lot and re-enter at the yellow cones to turn around.

TEACHER RESOURCES

Scan the QR code below each item to learn more.

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS

A Community Membership will allow your organization to visit as often as you'd like for an entire year. It allows access for up to 15 guests per visit (one of which must be an adult), allowing different people to visit each time.



<https://virginiazoo.org/community-memberships/>

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Explore your wild side with our digital and printable resources. Catch up on your reading with the Zoo blog or binge a couple of our entertaining and educational videos.



<https://virginiazoo.org/school-programs/digital-resources/>

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS

Have a small group of 10 individuals counting yourself? We offer group behind-the-scenes tours here at the Virginia Zoo. Check the schedule to see what we have available.



<https://virginiazoo.org/behind-the-scenes-tours/>

CONSERVATION YOUTH TEAM

The Virginia Zoo's Conservation Youth Team (CYT) is a volunteer and youth development program for ages 13 to 17 who are interested in learning more about wildlife and conservation, earning community service hours, and spending their time at the Zoo!



<https://virginiazoo.org/school-programs/conservation-youth-team/>

TEACHER DISCOUNTS FOR GENERAL ADMISSION AND MEMBERSHIP

Visit the Virginia Zoo anytime and get \$2 off discount on your general admission ticket as our way of recognizing your hard work as a teacher. And if you want to visit the Zoo year-round, you receive \$10 off any level of Zoo Membership when you sign up in person! Please bring in a valid Teacher ID.

FAQ

CAN CHILDREN WHO ARE INCLUDED IN THEIR FAMILY'S MEMBERSHIP VISIT FOR FREE?

Members only receive free admission for self-guided Field Trips. If schools are booking a program, everyone participating in the program must be included in the count.

IF I'M BOOKING AN ANIMAL PROGRAM, DO I GET TO PICK THE ANIMALS?

No. The ambassadors participating in the animal presentation will be chosen by staff at the Virginia Zoo based on animal health and safety.

DO I NEED TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR MY ADA GROUP?

We recommend all ADA groups to contact the Program Reservations Specialist to make a reservation. ADA individuals will receive free admission with one free chaperone.

CAN SCHOOLS PAY BY CHECK?

Yes. Checks should be made out to the Virginia Zoo.

CAN I SCHEDULE A FIELD TRIP ON A WEEKEND?

Our field trip experiences are only offered on weekdays.

CAN I CHANGE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS COMING?

Yes. You can update your group size through the reservation portal or by contacting the Program Reservations Specialist at (757) 447-2374 ext. 229.

CAN I RESCHEDULE/CANCEL MY FIELD TRIP?

In order to reschedule, you must give us notice at least 3 weeks from the original date. Reschedule requests are subject to the availability of the new date requested. Refunds will only be issued under special circumstances.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHAPERONE IS RUNNING LATE AND NEEDS TO FIND A SCHOOL GROUP?

It is the responsibility of the school to let chaperones know where to meet if they arrive late. The Virginia Zoo will not be able to provide late arrivals with this information.

ARE WE ALLOWED TO BRING OUR OWN LUNCH?

Yes. Group lunch spot locations are at Flora Point, which is next to Turtle Oasis, and the Elephant Statue, which is outside the entrance gates. Groups are not allowed to utilize the tables inside or around the restaurants.

WILL THE TRAIN BE RUNNING? WILL THE FOUNTAINS BE ON?

The train will operate when the high temperature is above 55*. Fountains are on from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The train and fountains will close during inclement weather. The Train may also close for maintenance.

CAN I JUST SHOW UP AND RECEIVE THE FIELD TRIP DISCOUNT AT THE TICKET BOOTH?

Field trips must make an advanced reservation online to receive the group discount. Groups that show up without a reservation will have to pay general admission costs.

WHERE DO I GO IF I NEED A WHEELCHAIR?

Wheelchairs can be rented for the day on a first come, first-serve basis. They can be rented from the Zoo's Gift Shop or at the Stroller Shack, located just outside the shop. Regular wheelchairs: \$12

IS THE VIRGINIA ZOO SENSORY INCLUSIVE?

The Virginia Zoo is certified sensory-inclusive facility through KultureCity. Sensory backpacks and weighted lap pads are available in the membership office for checkout at no cost to those visiting the Zoo.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS INCLEMENT WEATHER ON THE DAY OF MY TRIP?

The Virginia Zoo is a rain or shine attraction. Please provide at least 24 hours notice if rescheduling due to weather. We may not always be able to accommodate your desired rescheduled date.

IS THERE A GIFT SHOP AT THE ZOO?

Yes. The Virginia Zoo Gift Shop is open daily. Shop a wide variety of items for Zoo lovers of all ages, many of which support conservation efforts around the world. We ask that only 1 group of 10 students with a chaperone enter at a time.